

### **3/15/06 School Subcommittee Notes**

**Jeff Weiss, Lori Miller, John Tindall-Gibson, and Sue Sheppard were present.**

**Jeff Weiss gave a presentation. Handouts of the presentation were distributed.**

**Jeff noted that people do move to Lincoln for the school system and it tends to be more so on the secondary level.**

**He noted that the town will continue to grow based on estimates and information from the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor.**

**In the schools, OT/PT is being taught in public spaces, and the schools have been cited for doing so but Georgia Fortunato was able to get more time to correct the situation and explained that the new middle school would alleviate a lot of the problems.**

**At Central, the Principal feels that a reallocation and use of empty period spaces could alleviate the issue for that school.**

**Linda Noble noted that the required changes in Saylesville do not appear on the price listing, It is purely space allocation with no real costs associated.**

**Cheryl noted that things like the painting at Central should be in capital improvements, not in the bond.**

**Jeff Weiss noted that most things in the bond are long-term but there are some items that are maintenance or aesthetic.**

**At Northern, most of the expense last year was for siding and windows and it made the school look a lot better.**

**At Lonsdale, there will be 4 classrooms proposed, 2 of which will open up to large classrooms.**

**Kindergarten will have a large surge due to a law change that kept a lot of students from entering last year but who can enter this year.**

**Linda Noble wanted to know why the schools did move some of the modular classrooms to Lonsdale.**

**Jeff stated that it would only be a temporary solution, and the moduls only have a 10-year life without being moved.**

**Also, it is uncertain whether they are able to be moved and remain intact.**

**Linda Noble noted that the taxpayers were not fully made aware of the intentions at Lonsdale Elementary.**

**Jeff noted that a letter regarding the bond referendum was distributed to Lonsdale parents and it did mention the 4 classrooms.**

**Joe Dziobek noted that one of the reasons that the town chose moduls was that they could be moved when the new middle school was built.**

**Jack Newman noted that \$500,000 in painting and carpeting are things that should be in the capital budget and then \$500,000 more**

could be accomplished with the bond.

Jeff noted that the town had the process of deciding, through endless meetings, what would be in the bond.

Jack felt that the town could still go back and reallocate so that more long-term items were in the bond.

Jeff thought that the architect's attempt in the allocation was to also make the schools look better, since it was not really possible to do enough with the infrastructure with the amounts given.

Sue Sheppard noted that she thought that the allocation decided upon stayed true to the taxpayers and the bond's intent.

Linda Noble noted that if items, for instance the roof repairs, are put in the capital budget, the taxpayers have the opportunity to turn it down and not fund it where it will definitely be completed if put in the bond.

The Subcommittee rejoined the Budget Board for the public reading of the budget and then rejoined.

Cheryl noted that the subcommittee really didn't have to meet with the Principals of each school.

The subcommittee will not meet with the School Department on March 23rd, and will instead submit their questions in writing so that on March 30th, the final meeting and requests will be heard.

Linda noted that there are rumors that the Budget Board is cutting programs, so she thought that instead of a bottom-line, the subcommittee should give the schools suggested funding for the line

items to show exactly what is suggested.

Joe Dziobek noted that he still wanted to have the person who is responsible for billing Medicaid in to meet with the subcommittee on March 30th.

Mary wanted real figures because the information given were projected, and not actual expenses.

The schools do a census report in October and in January, which the subcommittee would like to have a copy of by grade and school.

Joe is going to speak with the Superintendent to discuss an updated program for students who were frequently suspended because there is a new law that doesn't allow their suspension for more than a certain amount of days.

Self-contained had a high teacher-student ratio possibly because teachers could be paid for by grant.

Joe wanted to know what percentage of the budget was for Special Education, and wanted to know the process of hiring consultants versus an agency for OT/PT.

Linda Noble noted that electricity and utilities are increased a lot, and wanted to find out the rate that the town is getting for those, as well as the cost per square footage to provide the new middle school with

**service.**

**Joe noted that the new middle school will be more efficient because it is a new building.**

**It was noted that about \$1 million of the bond is already committed.**

**It was noted that the architects had never actually stated that the modulars cannot be moved.**